

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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### MEMORANDUM

August 15, 2019

**To: Members of the Subcommittee on Environment**

**Fr: Majority Staff**

**Re: Subcommittee on Environment Hearing on “Courage Under Fire: Examining Government Preparedness and Response to Wildfires in California”**

**On Tuesday, August 20, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. (PST), in the Council Chambers of Simi Valley City Hall, Simi Valley, CA,** the Subcommittee will hold a field hearing focused on government accountability and the environmental and health impact of wildfires in California.

#### I. HEARING PURPOSE

The 2017 and 2018 wildfire seasons were the two deadliest wildfire seasons in U.S. history. Forecasters predict the potential for large-scale wildfires in 2019 to be higher-than-average in California and in other areas of the country. This hearing will examine the status of recovery efforts from the 2017 and 2018 California wildfire seasons as well as the state and federal government’s response to the 2019 California wildfires. The hearing will also explore both state and federal government wildfire mitigation strategies and examine the health and environmental impacts of longer, more destructive wildfire seasons.

#### II. WITNESSES

##### **Panel One**

**Robert Fenton**

Region IX Administrator

Federal Emergency Management Agency

**Randy Moore**

Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region

USDA Forest Service

**Mark Ghilarducci**

Director

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

**Dan Johnson**

Southern Region Chief

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection

**Panel Two**

**Max Moritz, Ph.D.**

Cooperative Extension Wildfire Specialist

Bren School of Environmental Science & Management

University of California, Santa Barbara

**Afif El-Hasan, M.D.**

Pediatrician

Kaiser Permanente, California

**Brent Berkompas**

Director of Governmental Affairs

Orange County Professional Firefighters Association

**Lisl Spangenberg**

Affected Resident

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